

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

2. (Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:

the filtering assembly has a plurality of splines disposed in annularly spaced relationship to one another and has a filter member attached to the splines.

al 3. (Amended) The filtering device of claim 2, wherein:

the splines are formed from a material having shape memory for disposition against the vessel when released from the sheath and

the filter member is formed from a material having properties of passing the fluid in the vessel while blocking the passage of emboli in the vessel.

4. (Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:

the filtering assembly becomes disposed within the sheath when the tubular shaft member becomes disposed within the sheath.

a2 6. (Amended) The filtering device of claim 2, wherein:

the splines are self expanding.

9³ 11. (Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:

the tubular shaft member is made from a material having flexible properties and properties of withstanding buckling.

17. (Amended) A method of passing fluid in a vessel and of preventing emboli in the fluid from passing through the vessel from a lesion in the vessel, including the steps of:

ay providing a filtering assembly having constricted and expanded positions and having properties in the expanded position of passing fluid while blocking the passage of emboli from the lesion, the filtering assembly being mounted to a tubular shaft member having a lumen for receiving a guide wire,

disposing the filtering assembly in a sheath attached to a guide wire in the constricted position with the filtering assembly disposed in the sheath and movable relative to the sheath, the guide wire being disposed and movable within the lumen of the tubular shaft member,

positioning the filtering assembly and the sheath in the vessel at a position past the lesion in the direction of the fluid flow in the vessel,

producing relative movement between the sheath and the filtering assembly in a direction to move the filtering assembly in the expanded position, and

94 expanding the opening in the vessel at the position of the lesion with an interventional device while the filtering assembly remains in the expanded relationship to provide for the operation of the filtering assembly in passing the fluid while blocking the passage of emboli created during the expansion of the opening in the vessel.

19. (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 18, wherein:

the filtering assembly is disposed in a fixed relationship on the tubular shaft member and the tubular shaft member is a hypotube,

95 the hypotube is made from a flexible material having properties of withstanding buckling, and

the distal end of the hypotube becomes disposed within the sheath when the filtering assembly is placed into the sheath.

Please add the following new claims:

22. (New) A device for passing fluid in a vessel while preventing emboli in the fluid from passing through the vessel, comprising:

96 a guide wire having a proximal and distal end;

a sheath attached to the guide wire near its distal end;

a tubular shaft member having movable along the guide wire in a co-axial arrangement; and

a self-expanding filtering structure formed from a portion of the tubular shaft member, the self-expanding filtering structure being movable between a collapsed and expanded position and including a filter member attached thereto.

23. (New) The filtering device of claim 22, wherein:

the self-expanding filtering structure includes a plurality of splines

formed from a portion of the tubular shaft member.

24. (New) The filtering device of claim 23, wherein:

a plurality of recesses are formed in the tubular shaft member for receiving the plurality of splines when the filtering structure is placed in the collapsed position.

25. (New) The filtering device of claim 23, wherein:

the plurality of splines are biased to the expanded position.

26. (New) The filtering device of claim 22, wherein: